Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MANAGU 01644 101529Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 HA-05 SY-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 /096 W
----------070755 102335Z /64
R 072212Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6261

UNCLAS MANAGUA 1644

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CASC, NU
SUBJECT: PROTEST LETTER AGAINST EMBASSY

SUMMARY: EMB AND LOCAL MEDIA RECEIVED ON APRIL 6 A LETTER DATED APRIL 3 WITHOUT RETURN ADDRESS PROTESTING DISCRIMINATORY EMB TREATMENT OF AMCITS. LETTER IS SIGNED BY 16 PERSONS CLAIMING TO BE US CITS. END SUMMARY

1. PERTINENT EXTRACTS OF SUBJECT LETTER, WHICH WAS ALSO SENT TO MULTIPLE U.S. MEDIA AND OTHER ADDRESSEES, ARE AS FOLLOWS: "THE UNDERSIGNED...DEMAND AN EXPLANATION ABOUT THE VARIOUS EVENTS THAT HAVE DEVELOPED IN THE LAST FEW DAYS. WE ARE REFERRING TO: (1) THE AMERICAN EMBASSY GAVE PROTECTION TO MR. ARTHUR SHARINTON, AN AMERICAN CITIZEN WHO IS ACTUALLY BEING JUDGED BY THE NICARAGUAN LAWS. HE CLAIMED THAT HIS HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED AND ASK FOR AND WAS GIVEN PROTECTION. (2) THE AMERICAN EMBASSY DENIED PROTECTION TO MR. PEDRO CHAMORRO ARGUELLO, ALSO AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, WHO ON FEBRUARY 7 REQUESTED PROTECTION AT THE EMBASSY CLAIMING HE WAS BEING PERSECUTED BY THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT FOR ALLEGED POLITICAL REASONS. (3) ON APRIL 3, MR. GUILLERMO FRUTOS CHAMORRO ARGUELLO, A 15 YEAR OLD BROTHER OF PEDRO CHAMORRO-ARGUELLO, AND HIMSELF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, WAS BRUTALLY EJECTED FROM THE GROUNDS OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY WHILE HE WAS ON A PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION ASKING FOR AN ANSWER TO A LETTER WRITTEN TO AMBASSADOR SOLAUN. HE WAS DRAGGED ON
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MANAGU 01644 101529Z

THE GROUNDS BY MR. JACK MARTIN, CHIEF POLITICAL OFFICER, MR. GILLESPIE AND ANOTHER AMERICAN DIPLOMAT AND ONCE OUTSIDE OF THE GATES WAS BRUTALLY ATTACKED BY NICARAGUAN NATIONAL GUARDS WHO WANTED TO TAKE HIM TO PRISON ALLEGING A REQUEST FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. THE ABOVE FACTS OBVIOUSLY SET A VERY SERIOUS PRECEDENT OF UNEQUAL PROTECTION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS" HUMAN RIGHTS."

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

2. DEPT HAS FULL INFO ON CHARITON AND PEDRO CHAMORRO CASES. CIRCUM-
STANCES RELATED TO GUILLERMO FRUTOS CHAMORRO CASE ARE AS FOLLOWS:
(A) CHAMORRO WROTE AMB LETTER DATED MARCH 27 ALONG SIMILAR LINES
OF ABOVE LETTER COMPLAINING ABOUT TREATMENT OF HIS BROTHER AND DEMAND-

ING AN EXPLANATION. ON THE SAME DAY, LETTER WAS GIVEN LOCAL MEDIA
COVERAGE, AND CHAMORRO ARRIVED IN EMBASSY AND MET WITH POLOFF AND
WAS GIVEN FULL RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED IN HIS LETTER. HE WAS ALSO
TOLD EMB WAS STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF A COMMUNIQUE WHICH WOULD
EXPLAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DIPLOMATIC ASYLUM AND TEMPORARY REFUGE
BUT WOULD NOT BE REPLYING SPECIFICALLY TO HIS LETTER.
(B) ON APRIL 3, CHAMORRO, HIS NON-US CITIZEN PARENTS AND SEVERAL
LOCAL MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES CAME TO EMB WHERE CHAMORRO, WRAPPED IN
US FLAG AND DISPLAYING SAYING "I DEMAND AN ANSWER. RESISTANCE TO
TYRANTS IS OBEDIENCE TO GOD", TOOK UP A POSITION IN FRONT OF EMB
ENTRANCE AND PROCEEDED TO BEGIN GIVEING PRESS INTERVIEWS.
(C) WHEN PRESENCE OF CHAMORRO CAME TO ATTENTION OF EMBOFFS THEY
WENT OUT OF EMB AND LEARNED CHAMORRO WAS ANNOUNCING HE WAS ON A
HUNGER STRIKE UNTIL HE RECEIVED A SATISFACTORY REPLY.
(D) EMBOFFS ASKED LOCAL PRESS TO LEAVE THE GROUNDS.
(E) POLOFF THEN TRIED TO REASON WITH CHAMORRO THAT HE HAD ALREADY
RECEIVED A FULL REPLY. HE ALSO SUGGESTED CHAMORRO SHOULD FOLD UP
THE FLAG AND PUT DOWN HIS PLACARD IF HE WANTED TO DISCUSS THE MAT-
TER FURTHER. EMBOFFS REPEATEDLY TOLD HIM THEY WOULD DISCUSS HIS
GRIEVANCE WITH HIM IF HE WOULD COMPLY WITH ABOVE CONDITIONS, BUT IF
HE DID NOT COMPLY HE WOULD BE REMOVED FROM THE GROUNDS. IN RES-
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MANAGU 01644 101529Z

PONSE TO CHAMORRO'S INSISTENCE HE COULD NOT BE REMOVED FROM
GROUNDS, EMBOFFS CITED DEMONSTRATORS BEING REMOVED FROM WHITE HOUSE
GROUNDS AND SIMILAR PRECEDENTS. CHAMORRO WAS TOLD THE DECISION
WAS HIS AS TO WHETHER HE HAD A FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS HIS
COMPLAINT OR TO BE REMOVED FROM GROUNDS. AFTER SEVERAL MINUTES DISCUS-

SION, WHEN CHAMORRO STILL REFUSED TO COMPLY WITH EMBOFFS REQUEST,
HE WAS LIFTED AND MOVED A FEW PACES TOWARD THE FRONT GATE. WHEN
CHAMORRO BEGIN TO STRUGGLE, HIS FATHER TOLD HIM TO STOP AND TO LEAVE
THE GROUNDS ON HIS OWN -- WHICH HE DID.
(F) CHAMORRO THEN TOOK UP POSITION IN FRONT OF EMB DRIVEWAY IMPED-
ING TRAFFIC AND GIVING FURTHER PRESS INTERVIEWS IN WHICH HE CHARGED
EMBOFFS WITH HAVING BEAT HIM (WHICH IS UNTRUE). ADMINOFF CALLED
POLICE AND REQUESTED THEY SEND OFFICIAL TO EMB TO COORDINATE HAND-
LING OF PROBLEM CHAMORRO WAS CAUSING IF IT SHOULD BECOME NECESSARY
TO KEEP HIM FROM BLOCKING EMBASSY DRIVEWAY. CHAMORRO AND HIS
FATHER SUBSEQUENTLY REENTERED GROUNDS WITH FLAG FOLDED AND WITHOUT
PLACARD AND TALKED TO VICE CONSUL AND ADMINOFF WHO ATTEMPTED TO FUR-
THER EXPLAIN HANDING OF BROTHER'S CASE. THEY THEN LEFT EMB GROUNDS
VOLUNTARILY, WITHOUT HAVING BEEN ASKED TO DO SO, WHERE GN
PLAINCLOTHESMAN ATTEMPTED

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

TO ARREST CHAMORRO, REPORTEDLY SAYING HE WAS DOING SO AT REQUEST OF EMB (WHICH IS UNTRUE). CHAMORRO, POLICE ALLEGED, BEGAN STRUGGLING AND REPORTEDLY WAS HIT ON SHOULDERS WITH GUN BUTT (ALTHOUGH HE SHOWED NO LATER SIGN OF BEING HURT OR INJURED). HE FELL ON GROUND AND HIS MOTHER SAT ON HIM. EMBOFFS AGAIN RETURNED TO SCENE WHERE A TRAFFIC JAM HAD DEVELOPED, INTERCEDED WITH GN NOT TO NOT TO TAKE HIM INTO CUSTODY UNTIL EMB HAD OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH ON WHAT GROUNDS HE WAS BEING ARRESTED. ADMINOFF AGAIN CONTACTED POLICE OFFIALS AND ESTABLISHED THEY KNEW OF NO GROUNDS FOR ARREST AND WOULD ISSUE INSTRUCTIONS TO POLICE AT EMB TO WITHDRAW.

(G) WHEN THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED, CHAMORRO AND PARENTS AND TWO LAWYERS REENTERED EMB AND SAID THEY WANTED PROTECTION. VICE COUNSUL AND SUBSEQUENTLY POLOFF MET WITH THEM, AGAIN DISCUSSED THE BROTHER'S CASE AND THEIR REQUEST FOR PROTECTION. AT END OF THE MEETING,
UNCLASSIFIED

DURING WHICH THE LAWYERS WERE VERY HELPFUL, THE GROUP APPEARED TO ACCEPT THAT THE BROTHER WAS NOT DISCRIMINATED AGAINST AND THAT THEY WERE IN NO DANGER. THEY VOLUNTARILY LEFT THE EMB AND GROUNDS WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO ADVISE EMB IF THERE SHOULD BE ANY FURTHER PROBLEM WITH POLICE. THEY WAS THE LAST CONTACT EMB HAS HAD WITH THEM.

3. THERE IS ROOM FOR SPECULATION ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED IF THIS CASE HAD BEEN HANDLED DIFFERENTLY. THE PRIMARY FACTORS INFLUENCING EMBOFFS WERE:

(A) CHAMORRO MADE CLEAR BY HIS ACTIONS HE WAS TRYING TO STAGE MEDIA EVENT TO EMBARRASS EMB RATHER THAN ACCEPT ALTERNATIVE OF FURTHER EXPLANATION OF HIS BROTHER'S CASE (WHICH WAS OSTENSIBLE CAUSE OF HIS PROTEST).

(B) CHAMORRO'S PLACARD REFERRING TO "RESISTEANCE TO TYRANTS" WAS INTERPRETED AS ANTI-SOMOZA SLOGAN WHICH, IF HE HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO CONTINUE TO DISPLAY THE PLACARD, WOULD HAVE APPEARED TO BE EMB TOLERANCE OF ANTI-GON PROTEST ON EMB GROUNDS.

4. EMB PLANS NO PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THIS LATEST LETTER FROM AMCITS BUT HAS ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT TWO OF THEM (MARYKNOLL NUNS) TO INVITE THEM TO EMB TO DISCUSS THEIR DEMAND FOR AN EXPLANATION.

5. IT IS UNCLEAR WHY THIS LETTER, DATED APRIL 3, DID NOT REACH EMB AND MEDIA UNTIL APRIL 6. DURING THE INTERVAL, THE EMB'S COMMUNIQUE ON ASYLUM WAS PUBLISHED AND CHARITON WAS REMOVED FROM EMB, BOTH ON APRIL 4. EMB WAS NOT CONTACTED BY ANY OF THE LETTER'S SIGNATORIES PRIOR TO OR SINCE ITS PREPARATION. COPIES OF VARIOUS DOCUMENTS REGARDING THIS CASE ARE BEING POUCHED.
SOLAUN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CITIZEN PROTECTION, DISCRIMINATION, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE, EMBASSIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANAGU01644
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780154-0800
Format: TEL
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780481/aaaacqyn.tel
Line Count: 157
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9f9cd4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3042815
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROTEST LETTER AGAINST EMBASSY SUMMARY: EMB AND LOCAL MEDIA RECEIVED ON APRIL 6 A LETTER DATED APRIL 3 WITHOUT RETURN ADDRESS PROTESTING DISCRIMI
TAGS: PINT, CASC, NU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9f9cd4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014